

RESPONSES TO VENDOR QUESTIONS  
SOLICITATION TIRNO-05-R-00005 (Posted 12/29/2004)

Q1. With respect to the five references required, does the IRS prefer to receive 5 total references for asset locator services, irrespective of online or batch data delivery, or does the IRS wish to have vendors submit 5 online research and 5 batch references?

A1 Since the batch processing will be evaluated separately from the online research, separate references are required.

Q2. With respect to the SOW 5.0 Physical and Computer Security of Federal Tax Information, can the IRS please clarify which of these requirements apply to online research and which security requirements apply to batch processing?

A2. All apply to online. SOW 5.1.1 through 5.1.4 inclusive apply to batch processing.

Q3 With respect to SOW 5.2.4 will vendors be receiving Federal return information?

A3. Yes. By definition, any information taken from a return (name, Social Security Number, etc.) is classified as Federal return information.

Q4. With respect to D.1-Telephone Number Research, Section II., Description of Work, "Individual/Business Response Record Layout" covers the input file layout from the IRS. It is only showing a field for last name. Will a first name also be sent?

A4. Data will be sent based on the input file layout.

Q5. With respect to D.1-Telephone Number Research, Section IV., Description of Deliverables, Deliverable Two, Response File Summary Report. When is this report due to the IRS? (**Note:** this question also applies to all batch processes.)

A5. The "Response File Summary Report" is to accompany the files that are returned in response to the batch processing request.

Q6. With respect to D.1-Telephone Number Research, Section IV., Description of Deliverables, Deliverable Three, "Billing Summary Report." When is this report due to the IRS? (**Note:** This question applies to all batch processes.)

A6. The "Billing Summary Report" is to accompany the invoices that are sent to the IRS in response to batch processing requests.

Q7. With respect to D.2-Address Research, Section III., Description of Work, General Issues Applying to Both Individual and Business Records, item 6, number 2, "Composite information (insurance derived source). Please clarify what you mean by "insurance derived sources." Does this data fall under the FACT act?

A.7 "Insurance derived sources" is an example of the type of information to be contained in this section. The referenced section is being modified to read as follows: Composite Information derived from other sources

Q8. With respect to D.3-National Research Program (NRP Public Records Search), in Section III, Description of Work, the paragraph that starts with "IRS will send records requesting searches on both...", the RFP states that the IRS will be sending a secondary Social Security Number. Is this secondary Social Security Number associated with the input name, or is it associated with someone else?

A8. A secondary Social Security Number (SSN) is associated with a different person than the Primary Social Security Number. Usually, the Secondary SSN is associated with a spouse.

Q9. With respect to D.3-National Research Program (NRP Public Records Search), Section IV, Description of Deliverables, Deliverable One, Report in Print Format on CD, "File Layouts (Table 2)," the field indicator "BLJ" appears in the Subject File. Please clarify what BLJ stands for.

A9. Bankruptcy, Lien, and Judgment.

Q10. With respect to D.3-National Research Program (NRP Public Records Search, Section IV, Description of Deliverables, Deliverable One, Report in Print Format on CD, below the table, the text begins "Modifications include (but are not limited to)." What do we do with multiple returns for the other data sources (e.g., boats, MVR, planes and assets)?

A10. If there are multiple returns for a data source, the additional data would be included in the response file at the appropriate location, using the record layout as indicated.

Q11. With respect to D.4--Exam Case Building requirement, please clarify the requirements pertaining to the Exam Case Building project. Is it a private database that vendors will populate with information found during our batch processing and information sent to us from the IRS? We need more information on these sets of requirements.

A.11. No, this is not a private database. This requirement is for the delivery of public records information for inclusion in Examination Case Files during the case building process.

Q12. With respect to D.4--Exam Case Building requirement, in Section III, Description of Work, Table 1, "Suggested Individual Taxpayer Inquiry File Layout," under Field Name, you have a position for Primary Full Name. The field length is 39, but you state that you could have two names in the field. How will the two names be separated, and will the field only contain last names?

A12. The names would be listed as they appeared on the most recently filed tax return. Examples would include "John and Mary Doe", "John & Mary Doe".

Q13. With respect to D.4--Exam Case Building requirement, what sources are vendors required to search to fulfill this requirement?

A13. This is a decision of the vendor, based on the sources that are available and the costs that would be incurred to include those sources in the search set.

Q14. With respect to D.4--Exam Case Building requirement, what data elements should be included in the file delivered to the IRS?

A14. The IRS requires a printable report containing Public Records Data. At this time, there is not a defined response file structure. Rather, the vendor shall explain what data will be provided for this requirement in their RFP response.

Q15. With respect to D.5--Marital Status Research, can you please provide more definition around these requirements?

A15. No. The requirements in the RFP are self-explanatory.

Q16. SOW 3.2.3 states: "It is highly desirable to have the ability to run a predictive collectibility model for individuals and/or businesses. Data returned must be customized to meet IRS needs. Data formats may be in the form of but not limited to comma delineated, spreadsheet, ASCII flat file, Access database and XML." Will the IRS require a custom-built product developed to your specifications after the award, or will a current commercially available solution meet the needs of the IRS?

A16. The IRS desires a commercially available solution for our predictive collectibility modeling needs. We understand the need to customize any product of this nature, but are not requesting a custom-built product.

Q17. Please clarify SOW 3.1.2.20: "State Employment Commission records" regarding what type of records are required to fulfill this requirement (e.g., unemployment records, unemployment appeals, worker compensation cases, or worker compensation filings).

A17. Any data related to State Employment Commission records is of value to the IRS. Your technical proposal should describe the specific data that is being offered.

Q18. Our market research within the government sector has shown that the concurrent user model often causes frustration and lost productivity when users are unable to access the service once maximum user capacity levels are reached. Will the IRS consider providing a pricing model based on a **range** of users instead of concurrent users?

A.18. The IRS will not consider providing a pricing model based on a range of users instead of concurrent users.

Q19. Do historical metrics exist for concurrent users?

A19. This information is not available.

Q20. Can you provide the current number of concurrent users during peak times for the General Package and Law Enforcement Package?

A20. This information is not available.

Q21. How should the pricing for the General Package and Law Enforcement Package be presented (e.g., by month)?

A21. Annual pricing should be provided. See amendment 3 for the revised unit designation in the solicitation.

Q22. What does the acronym "LO" mean under the "Unit of Issue" column heading?

A22. This acronym refers to "Lot." However, please note that this was amended in amendment 3 to the solicitation.

Q23. What do the "Digit Position" and "Values" column headings mean in the General, Law Enforcement, and Batch Packages spreadsheet?

A23. The "Digit Position" and "Values" are columns of the "CLIN Structure" table. These columns explain how the CLIN numbers were derived.

Q24. Would you consider adding a line item under the Batch Processing Package for the highly desirable feature noted in SOW 3.2.3 (Predictive Collectibility Model)?

A24. No. It is anticipated that this feature would be available Online.

Q25. Please clarify where our responses for the following Statement of Work items fit into the format outlined in the "Instructions to Offerors, Volume II/Technical and Past Performance Proposal": SOW 3, SOW 6.4, SOW 4, SOW 7, SOW 6.1, SOW 8, and SOW 6.3 .

A25. Amendment 2 may provide greater clarity on the structure of the technical proposal. The solicitation was amended to instruct offerors that the major characteristics/features of the mandatory database requirements should be identified in the I/O Plan. However, offerors should be mindful that (1) a single aspect of the SOW may cut across more than one evaluation factor or subfactor and that it is the responsibility of the offerors to determine how it will best respond to the Government's requirements; and (2) that the instructions represent the MINIMUM data that must be provided.

Q26. Please confirm if our response to SOW 3.1.2 belongs in Section V, "Description of Proposed Highly Desirable System Features" as outlined in the "Instructions to Offerors, Volume II/Technical and Past Performance Proposal."

A26. All highly desirable system features identified in the SOW should be addressed in Section V, "Description of Proposed Highly Desirable System Features" as outlined in the "Instructions to Offerors, Volume II/Technical and Past Performance Proposal."

Q27. What are the data requirements for the Law Enforcement Package? How do they differ from the "General Package"? Where should those descriptions be included in the structure of our response?

A27. It is anticipated that offerors will propose commercially available products that are specifically geared to the law enforcement community. However, the law enforcement package will differ amongst vendors. Therefore, offerors should describe the major characteristics/features of its proposed law enforcement package.

Q28. Please confirm how many hard copies of each proposal volume you require.

A28. Please see block 28 of the Standard Form 1449.

Q29. Do you require an electronic copy (e.g., via email and/or CD)? The only electronic copy required is the Excel Pricing Spreadsheet referenced under Volume I/Price and Business Proposal. This information should be provided in a CD format.

Q30. In the SOW, Description of Electronic Research System (1.1.3), what is the significance of an "award group" and why are there two of them given that most prospective vendors can provide both services?

A30. The IRS does not wish to hinder competition. While *most* prospective vendors can provide both services, not necessarily all can.

Q31. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.1.4) for the "Corporate officer/principal data," what level of information is required for business principal (e.g., name, title, bio, age, etc.)?

A31. It is anticipated that offerors will propose commercially available packages. It is the responsibility of the offeror to identify the major characteristics of its product so that it may be evaluated.

Q32. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.1.4), for the "Corporate asset data," what does the IRS mean by the term "asset," does the IRS mean the individual assets that would be listed on a corporate balance sheet? Is there any interest in information on liabilities? Is there a need for historical asset (and liability) data? Must the information on assets and liabilities be sourced from audited corporate financial statements?

A32. "Asset" in this case refers to any assets that would be listed on a corporate balance sheet. Any other information that is offered is to be explained in the RFP response.

Q34. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.1.7) what do you mean by "Fictitious Business Name?" Does the term "fictitious business name" mean the same as the term "doing business as"?

A34. "Fictitious Business Name" is synonymous with "doing business as". It could also refer to instances where "also known as" might be used (as, for example, with a sole proprietorship).

Q35. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.1), can you provide examples of "Additional business information sources."

A35. This item allows the vendor to enumerate those business sources it is making available that do not "fit" into the other listed categories. As such, the IRS cannot list what these sources might be due to our lack of knowledge of each vendor's specific data offerings.

Q36. Is the IRS interested in having the vendor provide company investigative services to verify newly formed companies that don't otherwise appear in any of the vendor's supplier databases? What importance, if any, does the IRS place on knowledge of a business establishment's history as a federal government contractor or grant recipient?

A36. The RFP outlines the requirements for this requirement. Any other information that is offered is to be explained in the RFP response.

Q37. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.4), is Automated Valuation Model expected to be used on a transactional or batch basis?

A37. Transactional basis.

Q38. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.5), for the business credit report information, what specific sections of a business credit report are most and least valuable to the IRS?

A38. Offerors will be evaluated against the evaluation factors and subfactors identified in the solicitation.

Q39. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.10), for the foreign corporation information data, what types of "foreign corporation information data" are desired? Please provide a list.

A39. Foreign Corporation Information Data varies in availability based on the country under consideration. The vendor should explain the countries for which information is being provided, and what information is being offered for each of these countries.

Q40. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.12), for the information related to Limited Liability Companies, what types of "limited liability company" data are desired? Please provide a list.

A40. Any data related to limited liability companies is of value to the IRS, but as a commercial acquisition, the individual offeror should be able to identify and describe the information it currently provides to its customers and that it will propose for this effort.

Q41. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.14), for the international asset and locator information, what types of “international asset and location information” is desired? Please provide a list.

A41. See response A39.

Q42. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.1.2.16), for the Limited Liability Partnerships and general partnerships, what types of “limited liability partnership” data are desired? Please provide a list.

A42. See response A40.

Q43. In the SOW, Online Research Package (3.2.3), for the individual and business collectibility models, is it a requirement that a single vendor provide access to both individual and business collectibility models or can those models be provided by multiple vendors?

A43. Access to all requested data is expected to be provided through a single interface. The offeror determines the source of all data being offered.

Q44. Is it expected that access to a business collectability model would be on a transactional or batch basis?

A44. Transactional

Q45. For the Batch Processing Package, is the vendor expected to be able to match based on FEIN?

A45. Please review the representative tasks for details.

Q46. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders. D.1 – Telephone Number Research. II. C. 1. Business Master File, please elaborate on what is meant by an "exact business name" match?

A46. The business name on the returned file exactly matches the name in the input data.

Q47. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders. D.1 – Telephone Number Research, can a name match be achieved through the use of both the company’s legal name as well as any “doing business as” names?

A47. Yes

Q48. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders, D.1 – Telephone Number Research, is the IRS willing to consider an initial match test, once the contract has been awarded, during which the vendor will process the match project using existing matching software and the vendor's best practices, and on the basis of the outcome of the initial match then build more specific requirements based on these initial match results?

A48. The vendor must provide batch processing capabilities as set forth in the RFP. The IRS will work with the vendor to assure that their data meets the specified requirements.

Q49. In SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders, D.2 – Address Research., III.6-- Data sources, in the case of the “Business Directory” item, is the reference to ABI/Info USA data listed as an example or has the IRS identified ABI/Info USA as the provider of business directory listing data for purposes of this procurement?

A49. This is an example.

Q50. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders, D.2 – Address Research, III for the Business Master File Records, please elaborate on what is meant by an "exact business name" match?

A50. See response A46.

Q51. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders, D.2 – Address Research, can a name match be achieved through the use of both the company’s legal name as well as any “doing business as” names?

A51. See response to A47.

Q52. In the SOW Attachment D-Representative Task Orders, D.2 – Address Research, is the IRS willing to consider an initial match test, once the contract has been awarded, during which the vendor will process the match project using existing matching software and the vendor's best practices, and on the basis of the outcome of the initial match then build more specific requirements based on these initial match results?

A52. See Response to A48.